

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/285,649

decomposition of the carbamate and partial separation of the free ammonia in aqueous solution present in said mixture;

- means (6) for condensing at least partially the vapors leaving said stripping unit (2) and of recycling a first portion of carbamate in aqueous solution to said first reactor (1);

C1 - a recovery section (3, 4, 7, 8) of a flow comprising urea and residual carbamate in aqueous solution leaving said stripping unit (2) for separating the urea produced in the reactor (1) from a second portion of carbamate in aqueous solution;

characterized in that it comprises:

- means for feeding (26) at least part of said second portion of carbamate in aqueous solution to the stripping unit (2).

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14. (Amended) Method for modernizing a plant for urea production of the type comprising:

- a urea synthesis reactor (1);

- a high pressure stripping unit (2) operating at a pressure substantially corresponding to the pressure in said urea synthesis reactor (1);

C2 - means for directly feeding a reaction mixture leaving said urea synthesis reactor (1) to said high pressure stripping unit (2) for subjecting said reaction mixture to a treatment of partial decomposition of the carbamate and partial separation of the free ammonia in aqueous solution present in said mixture;

- means (6) for condensing at least partially the vapors leaving said stripping unit (2) and of recycling a first portion of carbamate in aqueous solution to said first reactor (1);

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- a recovery section (3, 4, 7, 8) of a flow comprising urea and residual carbamate in aqueous solution leaving said stripping unit (2) for separating the urea produced in the reactor (1) from a second portion of carbamate in aqueous solution;

characterized in that it comprises the step of:

- providing means for feeding (26) at least part of said second portion of carbamate in aqueous solution to the stripping unit (2).

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